Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 /111 W

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USOECD

E.O. 11652: NA TAGS: ETRD BU IZ

SUBJECT: IRAQI FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER VISITS BULGARIA

1. ON JULY 28, NEWSPAPER RABOTNICHESKO DELO REPORTED THAT IRAQI FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER HASSAN ALI MADE SHORT VISIT TO SOFIA. DURING VISIT HE MET WITH PRESIDENT TODOR ZHIVKOV, DISCUSSING "QUESTIONS RELATED TO EXPANSION AND DEEPENING OF ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES." ALI ALSO MET WITH POLITBURO MEMBER TANO TSOLOV (RESPONSIBLE FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS), THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE, THE FOREIGN MINISTER, AND THE MINISTER OF INTERNAL TRADE AND PUBLIC SERVICES.

2. COMMENT: ACCORDING TO FRENCH EMBOFF IRAQIS HAVE RECENTLY EXPRESSED DISSATISFACTION WITH SLOW RATE OF PROGRESS AND POOR WORKMANSHIP OF SEVERAL BULGARIAN PROJECTS IN IRAQ, INCLUDING AN IRRIGATION PROJECT AND CONSTRUCTION WORK ON THE BAGHDAD AIRPORT. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THIS HAS LED TO SOME UNEASINESS IN RELATIONS AND IS OF CONCERN TO SOFIA. THE BULGARIANS SEE SUCH DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AS AN IMPORTANT MEANS OF BOLSTERING THEIR CREDENTIALS IN THIRD WORLD AS WELL AS EARNING HARD CURRENCY AND/OR OBTAINING COMMODITIES SUCH AS OIL. HERZ.

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Message Attributes

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